

Ensemble as Foundation

Emine Sevgi Özdamar's Theatrical Practice and Poetics

Emine Sevgi Özdamar's narrative oeuvre has secured an undisputed place in German language and international literary landscapes. Yet key aspects of her artistic work have so far remained largely unexplored in scholarship: her plays, her many years of theatre work as an actor, assistant director, and director, and not least her practice as a visual artist and draughtswoman. In short, the anchoring of her work in theatre—as scenic practice, as an aesthetic principle, and as the foundation of her literary poetics—has received insufficient scholarly attention.

This international conference is the first to place Özdamar's theatre practice and her dramatic oeuvre at the center of academic inquiry. Stage aesthetics, scenic narrative procedures, and visual forms of expression are approached as inseparable dimensions of a body of work that brings together European avant-gardes, Turkish theatrical traditions, and German theatre history in a unique and productive constellation.

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Benoît Ellerbach – Koç University
Christoph K. Neumann – Orient-Institut Istanbul
Bernard Banoun – Sorbonne Université
Christine Meyer – Université de Picardie Jules Verne

with support from **Bilge Karbi** and **Lena Alpozan** – Orient-Institut Istanbul

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International Conference
Istanbul, 4–5 June 2026

Conference languages:
German and English

ANAMED and Orient-Institut Istanbul

Organized by Koç University and the Orient-Institut Istanbul, in collaboration with Sorbonne Université (Paris) and Université de Picardie Jules Verne (Amiens), with the support of the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, the Goethe-Institut Istanbul, the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Istanbul, the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, and the Nâzım Hikmet Kültür ve Sanat Araştırma Merkezi

Thursday, 4 June

Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED)

İstiklal Cd. No: 181, Merkez Han, Beyoğlu

09.00 – 09.30 Welcome coffee

09.30 – 10.00 Opening of the conference

- Prof. Dr. Inge Uytterhoeven (Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Koç University)
- Prof. Dr. Christoph K. Neumann (Director, Orient-Institut Istanbul)
- Dr. Benoît Ellerbach (Project Coordinator, Koç University)

10.00 – 12.15 KARAGÖZ, KELOĞLAN, AND TRANSCULTURAL STAGE PRACTICES

Chair: Christoph K. Neumann (Orient-Institut)

- Mehmet Fatih Uslu (Koç University): Performing the Folk: Karagöz and Keloğlan from 1970's Turkey to Özdamar
- Christine Meyer (Université de Picardie Jules Verne): Resonanzen und Dissonanzen in *Keloğlan in Alania*: Ein intertextuelles Ensemble gegen den Diskurs der kulturellen Homogenisierung
- Marina Dumont Anastassiadou (Collective ISO 3591): Laughter as Intercultural Heritage? Case Study: *Keloğlan in Alania* and *Karagöz in Alania*

12.15 – 13.45 Lunch break

14.00 – 15.30 ÖZDAMAR AND THE WORLD OF THEATRE

Chair: Varol Kahveci (Columbia University)

- Anne Fleig (FU Berlin): Özdamar, Kleist und das Theater der 1970er Jahre
- Mert Bahadır Reisoğlu (Duke University): The Paratexts of Theater: Emine Sevgi Özdamar and the Volksbühne Tradition

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 17.30 VISUAL PRACTICES: DRAWINGS, COLLAGES, THEATRE

Chair: Claudia Breger (Columbia University)

- Bettina Brandt (Penn State University): Emine Sevgi Özdamar als Avantgarde Künstlerin: Collage-Arbeiten und Theaterpraxis
- Bernard Banoun (Sorbonne Université): „so etwas wie eine Linsen-Schleiferin, die Pupillen formt“. Emine Sevgi Özdamar's Zeichnungen und Collagen – ein Überblick

19.00 Performance (Duygu Dalyanoğlu u. Nihal Albayrak) and reading by Emine Sevgi Özdamar

Orient-Institut Istanbul, Galip Dede Cad. No: 65, Beyoğlu

Friday, 5 June

Orient-Institut Istanbul

Galip Dede Cd. No: 65, Beyoğlu

09.00 – 09.30 Welcome coffee

09.30 – 11.00 THEATRE PRACTICE AND PERFORMATIVE PROCEDURES

Chair: Hasibe Kalkan (Istanbul University)

- Lizzie Stewart (King's College London): Özdamar's Work and Its Performance Afterlives: Artistic Networks and Networked Archives
- Nesrin Tanç (Ruhr University Bochum): Anatolisch-humanistische Literatur- und Kulturproduktion in Deutschland und Perikizis Odyssee im halb verbrannten Wald

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 POETICS OF PERCEPTION

Chair: Olcay Akyıldız (Boğaziçi University/Nâzım Hikmet Kültür ve Sanat Araştırma Merkezi)

- Florence Baillet (Sorbonne Nouvelle): Die Tierfiguren in Emine Sevgi Özdamar's Theaterstücken
- Mediha Göbenli (Yeditepe University): Physiognomische Wahrnehmung als literarisch-ästhetischer Stil in Emine Sevgi Özdamar's Roman *Ein von Schatten begrenzter Raum* (2021)

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 – 16.45 MEMORY AND EXILE

Chair: Christine Meyer (Université de Picardie Jules Verne)

- Claudia Breger (Columbia University): Zur chorischen Ästhetik von Özdamar's Romanen
- Olcay Akyıldız (Boğaziçi University): Performative Repetition: Staging Memory and Self in *Ein von Schatten begrenzter Raum* (2021)
- Alice Lacoue-Labarthe (Université Grenoble Alpes): Schatten der Flucht: Theater und Exil bei Emine Sevgi Özdamar

17.00 – 17.30 Closing of the conference